



United States Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Office of Inspector General

# Office of Investigations Special Agent



## *OUR PROUD HISTORY*

In 1976, the first statutory Office of Inspector General was created within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Investigations (OI) within the Office of Inspector General is the principal investigative arm of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The backbone of OI is a staff of professional criminal investigators or Special Agents. The primary responsibility of OI Special Agents is to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse within the numerous Departmental programs. In an effort to fulfill their mission, Special Agents conduct various criminal, civil, and administrative investigations.

Today OI is recognized as the premier health care fraud investigative agency within the law enforcement community. The significant experience and tremendous results achieved by OI Special Agents continue to foster this excellent reputation.

## *INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES*

OI Special Agents investigate crimes committed in over 200 Departmental programs. The skyrocketing costs of our nation's health care dictates that Special Agents spend a significant amount of their time investigating fraud committed against the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The United States spends in excess of \$1 trillion dollars a year on health care, so it is no surprise that these programs are prime targets for fraud.

In addition to health care fraud, OI Special Agents conduct investigations of wrongdoing committed against various agencies within the Department. These agencies include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Service, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health. OI Special Agents also conduct investigations involving Federal child support enforcement. Finally, OI Special Agents conduct internal investigations involving allegations against Departmental employees.

A significant number of OI investigations are conducted in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service and the various State Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

The OI Special Agents carry firearms, execute search and arrest warrants, conduct consensual monitoring, perform physical surveillance and participate in undercover operations.

## *PROTECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES*

The OI Special Agents ensure the safety and protection of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The OI Special Agents in the field supplement the OI Secretarial Protection Operations Staff when the Secretary is traveling, or when there is a specific threat which necessitates additional protection.

## *TRAINING*

All newly appointed Special Agents must successfully complete 9 weeks of intensive basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia. After successful completion of basic criminal investigator training, OI Special Agents receive additional specialized training relating to the various types of investigations they will be conducting.

Throughout their careers, OI Special Agents participate in numerous advanced training courses which ensure their ability to maintain proficiency in conducting the most complex criminal investigations.

Those Special Agents who possess both the desire and ability may request additional training that allows them to serve as firearms instructors, defensive tactics instructors and technical surveillance specialists.



Office of Investigations (OI) Special Agents

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Competition for Special Agent positions is intense. The OI is able to maintain its excellent reputation because only the most qualified applicants are selected. The OI is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from U.S. citizens of all races and ethnic backgrounds. The OI actively recruits minority college graduates through the Outstanding Scholar Program. To qualify for the program, you must graduate with at least a 3.5 GPA or be ranked within the top 10 percent of your class.

Position vacancies can be found at

<http://www.psc.gov/spo/sw.shtml>

## EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Must be a U.S. citizen
- ☐ Must be less than 37 years of age
- ☐ Must possess a valid State drivers license
- ☐ Must have a bachelor's degree, or a combination of education and investigative experience
- ☐ Must be in excellent physical condition
- ☐ Must pass a pre-employment medical examination
- ☐ Must pass a thorough background investigation
- ☐ Must submit to random drug testing
- ☐ Must complete basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- ☐ Must qualify regularly with a firearm
- ☐ Must be willing to relocate
- ☐ Must be willing to travel

## PAY AND COMPENSATION

Generally, Special Agents are appointed at the GS-7 level. Upon successful completion of their basic training, Special Agents are eligible to receive law enforcement availability pay which equates to an additional 25 percent of their annual salary. The journeyman level for a Special Agent is a GS-12. Promotions to Senior Special Agent positions at the GS-13 level are based on merit.

## BENEFITS

- ☐ Low cost health and life insurance
- ☐ Thrift Savings Program (401K)
- ☐ Locality pay and law enforcement availability pay
- ☐ 13 sick days each year
- ☐ 10 paid holidays each year
- ☐ 13-26 days of annual leave each year

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES \*

Boston, MA (617) 565-2664

New York, NY (212) 264-1691

Philadelphia, PA (215) 861-4586

Atlanta, GA (404) 562-7603

Los Angeles, CA (714) 246-8302

Chicago, IL (312) 353-2740

Kansas City, MO (816) 426-3586

Dallas, TX (214) 767-8406

San Francisco, CA (415) 437-7961



*\*Sub-offices exist in virtually every state*